

Franklin Smith House  
9 Hidden Street  
Providence  
Providence County  
Rhode Island

HABS No. RI-220

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
120-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## FRANKLIN SMITH HOUSE

HABS  
RI,  
4-PROV,  
120-

Address: 9 Hidden Street, Providence, Providence County,  
Rhode Island  
Plat 9, Lot 409.

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Tilley

Present Use: Dwelling

Brief Statement  
of Significance: This is a very small frame house, built before  
1829.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

- 1828 Moses Brown sells for \$250 to Franklin Smith a certain lot of land bounded: N by Olney's Lane 50'; and running S 132' to land of Thomas L Halsey; E by grantors other land. - Deed Book 56, page 68, in Providence City Hall. Coop not conveyed.
- 1829 Franklin Smith sells for \$168 to Jesse Parks, mason the above property with DWELLING HOUSE. - Deed Book 58, page 202, in Providence City Hall.
- 1845 Jesse Parks sells for \$975 to Clarissa Johnson, widow a certain lot of land with Dwelling House, barn and other buildings...being the same conveyed to grantor by Franklin Smith, mechanic, in 1829 and the same Franklin Smith purchased from Moses Brown in 1828. - Deed Book 93, page 187, in Providence City Hall.
- 1850 James Johnson, drayman, listed at rear Congdon Street. - Providence Directory.
- 1852 Clarissa Johnson sells the property for \$1300 to Dan Y Stickney.
- 1860 Dan Y Stickney was living at the rear of 39 Olney Street. - Providence Directory.

- 1861 Dan Y Stickney gives power of attorney to Thomas Phillips...a lot of land on the S side of Olney Street "where I have resided for many years" also all my other estate and property. - Deed Book 156, page 420, in Providence City Hall.
- 1863 Thomas Phillips sells for \$2020 a certain lot of land with TWO dwelling Houses and other buildings. - Deed Book 130, page 315, in Providence City Hall.
- 1867 Susan E Stickney sells to Frank W Snow and George L Claflin et al, carpenters doing business under the name of Snow, Claflin, Stone Company the S/ly 1/2 part of a certain parcel of land on Olney Street with all building and improvements, meaning to convey the S/ly 1/2 part of parcel of land as laid out in 1862...Plat Book #6, page 13 by W William S Haines for Dan Y Stickney. - Deed Book 180, page 129, in Providence City Hall.

This property changed hands several times and was sold by Paul LeLacheure in

- 1953 to Laurence Tilley and wife Mildred C bounded: S by Hidden Street 43.63'; N by Susan E Steere 33.27'; W by Gorham 60.10'; W by Paul LeLacheure 93.10'. - Deed Book in Providence City Hall.

2. Date of erection: Built before 1829, probably in 1828 by Franklin Smith who owned the property in that year, and is identified as a mechanic in the 1845 deed.

Prepared by Antoinette F. Downing and Elvira Gowdey  
for the Providence Preservation Society  
April 1962

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This is an example of a very small simple frame house, built in 1828.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

### B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: About 24' (four bays) x 20', facing south, one-and-a-half story, on sloping lot with ground level basement at north rear.
2. Foundations: Fieldstone covered with brick laid in common bond.

3. Wall construction: Heavy timber frame, original clapboards now covered with shingles, shingles added c. 1950.
4. Porches: Enclosed porch at basement level on north built c. 1950.
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys in end walls.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doors: Later lighted panel door in simple wood frame.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Miscellaneous later windows, mostly two over one light, double hung. Adjustable louvered shutters.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: Roof framed without ridge board. Gable roof, asphalt shingles.
  - b. Eaves: Small, simple, boxed eave with later moldings.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: Probably originally a four-room plan without hallway with entrance into smaller room at southeast; now southwest and northwest rooms joined as living room, small entrance hall cut out of southeast room, bedroom at northeast. Two large rooms on lower floor. Two finished rooms in attic. Small cellar room for furnace.
2. Stairways: Stairway at north center, enclosed, straight run with winders at bottoms.
3. Flooring: Some original wide boards, some later hardwood strip flooring.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, papered or painted.
5. Doors and Doorways: Four-panel doors, raised panels, various kinds of door trim, some Greek Revival architraves.
6. Hardware: Various kinds of later hardware, butt hinges, porcelain knobs. Some thumb latches on attic doors may be original.
7. Lighting: Electric

8. Heating: Central. Two fireplaces remaining - both later. Living room fireplace built for present owners since 1953. East chimney fireplaces closed and chimney not used.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Faces south, at sidewalk line, medium-sized lot, residential area, informal garden on north and east.
2. Enclosures: Low wood fences.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect  
National Park Service  
April 1962